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PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH
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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 190059Z AUG 08
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6679
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 9460
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 1822
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 7612
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 0040
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 3199
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 4964
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2489
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0954
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1294
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 002278

SIPDIS

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EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - PAKISTAN

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Most Tuesday morning papers gave top play to Pakistani President Musharraf's announcement of his resignation on Monday.

¶2. "Democratization Should Lead to Stabilization" The liberal Asahi editorialized (8/19): "...Musharraf's decision to head off political turmoil by resigning was a wise one. Pakistan's political parties need to seize the opportunity to swiftly establish a democratic and stable government.... If the political situation in a nuclear power like Pakistan were to deteriorate, we could end up facing the worst-case scenario of terrorists obtaining nuclear arms. The rise of Islamist extremism or militancy must not be allowed. Both the war on terrorism and nuclear nonproliferation should be led by a government supported by public."

¶3. "Campaign Against Terrorism Must Not Falter" The business-oriented Nikkei stated in an editorial (8/19): "...The question for Pakistan is whether Musharraf's resignation will lead to political unrest. Pakistan is a nuclear power and stands on the frontline of the war on terrorism. Turmoil in that nation would cause the international community great anxiety. The ruling coalition has a responsibility to stabilize the political situation, keep control of the nation's nuclear weapons, and continue the fight against terrorism."

¶4. "Vacuum Must Not Be Created" The moderate Yomiuri argued in an editorial (8/19): "...Since 9/11, the U.S. has been supporting Pakistan, the only Muslim nuclear power, as the country standing on the frontline in the war on terrorism. The antiterrorism campaign must not be allowed to falter due to the resignation of

President Musharraf."

SCHIEFFER